

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6886

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MX

SUBJECT: SUGAR: GEPLACEA MEETING IN PANAMA

REF: STATE 165902

1. ECONOFF SAW BRIOSO DOMINGUEZ, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF GEPLACEA, AND DIAZ FRANJUL HIS ASSISTANT, ON AUGUST 18 TO DISCUSS REFERENCED JULY MEETING IN PANAMA. BRIOSO SAID THE MEETING HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO FOLLOW THE ISO MEETING IN LONDON IN JUNE IN ORDER TO COVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ISO COUNCIL WOULD DECIDE TO SCHEDULE A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE FOR THE FALL OF THIS YEAR. SINCE THIS DID NOT OCCUR, THE PANAMA MEETING LACKED FOCUS. THEY GAVE US A COPY OF THE SHORT GEPLACEA PRESS RELEASE OF JULY 9, WHICH WE ARE TRANSMITTING TO THE DEPARTMENT (EB/ORF/CD/TRP). THEY TOLD US NOTHING ELSE ABOUT THE MEETING.

2. DISCUSSION SWITCHED TO THE LONDON ISO MEETING. BRIOSO COMMENTED THAT THE AGREEMENT TO POSTPONE NEGOTIATIONS FOR

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A NEW ISA UNTIL SPRING 1977 WAS WISE SINCE EVERYONE

NEEDED MORE TIME TO DEVELOP AND REFINE THEIR IDEAS ABOUT WHAT A NEW ISA SHOULD BE. THE SUGAR PRODUCERS OF COURSE WOULD BE LOOKING TO THE U.S. AND EC PROPOSALS WHICH HOPEFULLY WOULD SURFACE DURING THE FALL ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS. HE INDICATED CONSIDERABLE DOUBT THAT THE EC COULD DEVELOP A SERIOUS PROPOSAL AND ASKED OUR OPINION ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, HE SAID GEPLACEA WOULD NOT ACT AS A UNIT IN NEGOTIATIONS. MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD BE MAKING THEIR OWN PROPOSALS, ALTHOUGH GEPLACEA WOULD SUPPLY COORDINATION AND BACKUP TO THOSE MEMBERS REQUESTING IT.

3. ECONOFF REFERRED TO U.S. POSITION ON COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AS OUTLINED IN SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER UN AND UNCTAD SPEECHES. HE STATED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT OPPOSE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AS SUCH, BUT RATHER ARTIFICIAL PRICE FIXING MECHANISMS WHICH LEAD TO SERIOUS MISALLOCATION OF RESOURCES. HOWEVER, SUGAR HAD A COMPLICATED DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKET STRUCTURE AND A NEW ISA MAY NOT BE EASY TO DEVELOP.

4. BRIOSO AND FRANJUL THEN WONDERED WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SETTING UP SOME SYSTEM TO HELP ISOLATE ITS SUGAR PRODUCERS FROM THE UNCERTAINTIES AND LOW PRICE OF THE WORLD SUGAR MARKET. THEY ALSO INDICATED AN INTEREST IN A NEW ISA WHICH PUT QUOTAS ON EXPORTERS.
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